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Why Is Washington Covering for the KGB?

The assassin of President John F. Kennedy was most probably an agent of the Soviet KGB, but data pointing in this direction were systematically suppressed by the American government.

Such are the shocking conclusions reached by noted British author-solicitor Michael Eddowes, after an intensive review of the evidence surrounding the assassination, much of it only recently made available. Eddowes' researchers are detailed in a study entitled "The Oswald File" (Clarkson Potter), and in certain key respects — most obviously the existence of an official coverup — draw strong support from the recent release of data on the assassination by the FBI.

As Eddowes shows, the evidence linking Lee Harvey Oswald to the international Communist conspiracy is massive, though often ignored in public commentary. The assassin had lived in the Soviet Union and was married to the niece of a colonel in the KGB, herself a member of the Communist Youth League. He was a self-professed Marxist, a fanatical admirer of Fidel Castro and a devotee of such Marxist causes and publications as the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, the Socialist Workers Party and "The Worker," newspaper of the Communist Party U.S.A.

Moreover, Oswald maintained his contacts with the Soviets up until the eve of the Kennedy murder. Two months before the assassination, Oswald journeyed to Mexico where he made contact not only with the Cuban but with the Soviet embassy — both directly and through an intermediary — and conferred with one or more representatives of the KGB. He made this trip in the company of a mysterious operative traveling under a pseudonym and apparently planned to escape to the Soviet Union via Cuba immediately after the assassination.

Most important, Eddowes shows, Oswald wrote the Soviet embassy in Washington on Nov. 9, 1963 — less than two weeks before the Kennedy murder — reporting his activities in Mexico. In this letter he referred to his visit to the Soviet embassy in Mexico City, noted his desire to go to the Soviet embassy in Havana "to complete our business" and told the Soviets the FBI was no longer interested in his former activities with the pro-Castro Fair Play for Cuba Committee in New Orleans.

Eddowes also reveals the assassin's wallet was found after the assassination to be stuffed with papers containing the addresses of the Soviet embassy in Washington, the Communist "Worker" and the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, plus various documents, both real and forged, establishing his identity as Oswald and as "Alek James Hidell." (Eddowes speculates that the Oswald who murdered Kennedy was a Soviet plant from the beginning, having assumed the identity of the obscure ex-Marine who defected to the U.S.S.R. in 1959.)

These and other linkages to the Communist apparatus are explored at length by Eddowes, who observes that the existence of such data was routinely ignored or downplayed by the Warren Commission. The reason for this policy, he shows, was a determination by President Lyndon Johnson and his advisers that any finding of Soviet or other Communist conspiracy to murder Kennedy would lead to war. Investigators were in effect told to keep their mouths shut about this matter, and evidence bearing on it was whisked away from the Dallas police.

That there was indeed a coverup on this point is amply suggested by the FBI files, which indicate that Director J. Edgar Hoover was concerned about a possible Communist conspiracy and sought to pursue this notion but ran head on into the desire of the Justice Department and Warren Commission to "prove a negative": Namely, that there was no conspiracy and that Oswald acted alone, and that this conclusion should be promulgated to the American people as convincingly and as rapidly as possible.

Eddowes' study is impressive though not conclusive — there are still too many loose ends concerning Oswald, Jack Ruby, George de Mohrenschildt, the Castro Cubans and so on. But certainly he has provided powerful prima facie evidence of Oswald's involvement with the KGB, and of the eagerness of our government to avert its gaze from the connection.